



HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Democratic Caucus

The Honorable John M. Spratt Jr. ■ Ranking Democratic Member

B-71 Cannon HOB ■ Washington, DC 20515 ■ 202-226-7200 ■ www.house.gov/budget_democrats

May 18, 2006

A Vote for an Overall “Deeming Resolution” Is a Vote for the Flawed Republican Budget Resolution

Vote “No” on Today’s Rule for Interior Appropriations

Overview: Although the House Republicans finally succeeded in passing their flawed budget, the chances of ever passing a conference report are minimal. As a result, the House will have to pass a “deeming resolution” setting an enforceable overall limit on non-emergency appropriations – a role usually performed by the budget resolution conference report. Such a deeming resolution is expected to be buried in the rule governing debate for the Interior appropriations bill today. While the deeming resolution is no reflection on the merits of the Interior spending bill, it is important that the House and the American people understand that this deeming resolution is a proxy for the misguided House Republican budget, and that a vote for the overall deeming resolution is a vote for the Republican budget.

Flawed Republican Budget: The Republican fiscal year 2007 budget resolution makes harmful cuts to vital services while it also makes the deficit worse, offers no plan to bring the budget back to balance, and adds to the growing burden of the national debt, leading to a new debt limit increase of \$653 billion. United Democratic opposition and Republican concerns kept the Republican leadership from passing this flawed resolution until late last night.

Failure of Responsibility: As a result, the House missed the April 15 statutory deadline to approve a budget resolution conference report, the Appropriations Committee has already informally allocated spending for its 11 bills based on the discretionary total in the President’s 2007 budget, and the first 2007 appropriations bills are scheduled for the House floor this week.

A “Deeming Resolution:” To set enforceable appropriations levels, the Republican leadership will need to pass a “deeming resolution” that sets an enforceable non-emergency appropriations level for the total of all 11 appropriations bills. The three previous times that Congress failed to enact a budget conference report (fiscal years 1999, 2003, and 2005), the House passed such a deeming resolution. This deeming resolution will be buried in today’s rule governing floor debate rather than as a freestanding bill. Thus, everyone should be clear: a vote for the rule that deems a total appropriations level is a vote in support of the Republican budget resolution.

Likely Deemed Appropriations Level: Republicans are expected to deem a 2007 non-emergency appropriations level of \$873 billion – the same insufficient level of the President’s request and of their budget resolution. A vote to deem this limit will lead to damaging cuts to

critical services for working families, including education, health, veterans' services, and environmental protection. In fact, the suballocation for the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill essentially freezes total funding at the 2006 level, which was already billions below the 2005 level. Merely to adjust the 2005 Labor-HHS-ED funding level for inflation would require at least an additional \$8 billion above its current allocation.

A Budget Mess: Republicans could have avoided the need for parliamentary maneuvers if they had crafted a responsible budget that reflected the public's support for vital services without causing further fiscal damage. Instead, in the absence of a budget resolution conference report that can pass the House and the Senate, Republicans will have to resort to "deeming" the appropriations level from their flawed budget.